

**From:** Montgomery County Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:44 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Fw: Letter from the Commission on Child Care

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Dear Ms. Belski,

Thank you for your correspondence advocating for the reopening of school-based child care. I have made it available to my Council colleagues, and I am pleased to respond on their behalf.

The Council appreciates how important access to quality child care is for families, the economy and the workforce in Montgomery County, particularly as the County recovers from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

As you may know, the Board of Education, not the County Council, has decision making authority over the use of school buildings for child care, and consequently, I encourage you to contact the Board of Education about your concerns. I have reached out to Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Shebra Evans, President, Montgomery County Board of Education, requesting that all child care programs operating within MCPS be included in their reopening framework.

In response, MCPS has indicated that plans for opening child care in dedicated MCPS space will begin in the summer, for before and after school child care in shared MCPS spaces like All Purpose Rooms and gyms. MCPS indicated that due to the evolving nature of the reopening plans for schools, shared common spaces cannot be available at this time. However, MCPS will convene a work group of providers to share information about MCPS reopening plans; support advance planning for providers; and develop scheduling and capacity options in which before and after care providers can operate in various reopening scenarios.

I have also directed Council staff to develop a recovery program to provide financial relief and re-opening expenses to organizations that solely provide care for school-age children.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on this important matter. The Council will continue to closely monitor this issue.

Best regards,

Sidney A. Katz  
President, Montgomery County Council

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